

The State Board of Education/State Board for Vocational Education held its regular meeting on Thursday, March 20, 2014, in the Cabinet Room of the John G. Townsend Building, Dover, Delaware.

Present were: Jorge L. Melendez, Vice President; G. Patrick Heffernan; Randall L. Hughes, II; Barbara B. Rutt; Dr. Terry M. Whittaker and Mark T. Murphy, Executive Secretary and Secretary of Education. Donna R. Johnson, who serves as the State Board's Executive Director, was also present.

Also in attendance were Ilona Kirshon, Deputy Attorney General and legal counsel for the State Board of Education; David Blowman, Deputy Secretary of Education; Karen Field Rogers, Associate Secretary, Financial Reform and Resource Management; Susan Haberstroh, Associate Secretary, Education Supports & Innovative Practices Branch; and Michael Watson, Chief Academic Officer, Teaching and Learning Branch.

Attending portions of the meeting in conjunction with agenda items: Shana Young, Constance Lindsay, Mary Kate McLaughlin, and Jen Nagourney.

Also attending: Donna Mitchell, Professional Standards Board; Deb Stevens, Delaware State Education Association; Frederika Jenner, Delaware State Education Association, Jackie Wilson, DASL; Elizabeth Lewis, Budget Office; Sue Francis, Delaware School Boards Association; Melissa Hopkins, Rodel; Nelia Dolan; Matt Albright and Alison May.

Call to Order

Vice President Melendez presided over the monthly meeting and called the meeting to order at 1:01 p.m. He welcomed all guests to the State Board's monthly public meeting.

Approval of Agenda

The first order of business was approval of the agenda. Mr. Melendez noted that the agenda had been amended to reschedule the recognition of David Ring as Delaware Superintendent of the Year to a later date.

A motion was made by Mr. Hughes to approve the agenda as amended. The motion was seconded by Mr. Heffernan and carried with the following vote recorded:

Ayes:	Nays:	Abstention:
Mr. Melendez Mr. Heffernan Mr. Hughes Mrs. Rutt	None.	Dr. Whittaker

Approval of Minutes

Regular Meeting – February 20, 2014

The Board received a copy of the regular meeting minutes prior to the meeting. Mr. Melendez asked if there were any changes or additions to the minutes. A motion was made by Mr. Hughes to approve the minutes of the State Board regular meeting held on February 20, 2014 as presented. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Rutt and carried with the following vote recorded:

Ayes:	Nays:	Abstention:
Mr. Melendez Mr. Heffernan Mr. Hughes Mrs. Rutt	None.	Dr. Whittaker

Formal Public Comment

It was indicated that this was the time the Board set aside for formal public comment. President Gray announced that no one had signed up to address the Board.

Ms. Johnson indicated that Frederika Jenner from the Delaware State Education Association withdrew her name to comment on the "snow days" when it was explained that public comment was not permitted on action items on the Board's agenda for that today, per the published Board policy.

State Board Business

Committee Reports from State Board Members

Mrs. Rutt attended board meetings of the Delaware School Boards Association. Discussion at the most recent meeting focused on the impact of charter schools on traditional schools. She also attended an informal meeting with DSEA, DASA and the superintendents association on DPAS II.

Mr. Heffernan attended a public hearing for the new charter applications.

Mr. Hughes represented the State Board at the Delaware Teacher Forum. He extended kudos to the Early College High School for developing its comprehensive school safety plan before opening.

Mr. Melendez thanked the Board members for their active participation.

Ms. Johnson stated that although Mr. Coverdale was unable to attend today's meeting but he did provide his report. Mr. Coverdale attended the Common Ground event and noted it was very well attended by educators and administrators and focused on embracing the Common Core.

Ms. Johnson noted that she included articles under her report for the Board members and the public that focused on literacy and she thanked the News Journal for its article on the Board's Literacy Campaign. She also included information on the SREB Education Report on state implementation of the Common Core State Standards. Delaware was identified as a strong state for its alignment with the implementation timeline. Delaware was also recognized as a leading state for its professional development.

Ms. Johnson briefed the Board on the National Association of State Boards of Education (NASBE) Legislative Conference. Secretary Duncan provided comments on early childhood, ESEA amendments and reauthorization and the "opportunity gap." She also attended the NASBE Board of Directors meeting and reported that the grant the State Board applied for to help states with communications, outreach on initiatives was awarded. NASBE will be sending out a press release.

On the Board's Literacy Campaign, Ms. Johnson has been continuing its work on the first pillar of communication and venturing into the second pillar which links licensure and certification of Senate Bill 51 into Regulation 290. Mr. Heffernan has been having conversations with literacy experts and bringing in those experts for decisions on assessments and certification. Mr. Heffernan recently had a discussion with Richard Long from Literate Nation on research on teacher exit and licensure exams in the area of reading and early literacy.

Ms. Johnson also addressed technology standards as part of the 21st Century Skills which will play a huge part for students, teachers and leaders.

Secretary's Report, Review and Discussion

Secretary Murphy stated that today he approved the Delaware Leadership Project under Regulation 1595 for two cohorts. The TLEU office will work collaboratively with the Professional Standards Board on the monitoring and reporting. The project has been piloted and each new cohort will have 15 candidates.

Mr. Murphy provided an update on the ESEA extension and amendment. Conversations have taken place on the amendment and it will be submitted at the end of the month. With this amendment will be the ability to improve how to measure the performance of schools shifting from the AYP metric to the academic performance framework to measure school and district success. There has been considerable outreach on the amendment and information sessions were held, as well as webinars and an FAQ document. The amendment has been posted and written comments have been received.

The third update by Secretary Murphy focused on the third year report of Race to the top has been made public. He noted that the reports do lag a year but it did call out the great work being done in Delaware. Secretary Murphy stated that this great work is happens every day in our schools and districts. He also noted that the Common Ground initiative has been in place for about a year and the Department has made the decision to extend this support, Common Ground 2.0, to educators and offer schools and districts the opportunity to continue to participate. The Board asked if the opportunity would be extended to all schools and districts as not all participated in Common Ground. Secretary Murphy noted that yes the door would open back up for all schools and districts if they so wished to participate.

Update on Teacher Preparation Program Approval and Implementation of SB 51

Constance Lindsay and Shana Young from the Teacher Leader Effectiveness Unit presented the update to the members of the State Board. The implementation of Senate Bill 51 which was signed into law last year is through Department Regulation 290. Regulation 290 provides the Department's purview on approving and regulating educator prep programs in the state. Based on Senate Bill 51, revisions will be made to the regulation. Ms. Lindsay highlighted the State policy considerations: program approval which will include the requirements and process for Department approval; data collection requirements such as scorecard metrics; entry requirements which may include standardized tests, GPA/class rank requirements; required program components which would include clinical residency, high quality educator definition, research-based strategies for instruction; and exit requirements which would include content-readiness exam and performance assessment.

Ms. Lindsay stated that about 60% of the teacher workforce in Delaware comes from the State's four institutions of higher education and there are about 45 education programs offered at those four institutions. There was discussion on the 40% who are coming from out of state. Ms. Lindsay commented that many of these requirements are included in the licensure requirements which candidates coming into the state must meet. It was also pointed out that some institutions of higher education already have clinical residency in place as part of their program and there was discussion on the high quality supervisor and qualifications. It was also pointed out that throughout all the discussions, higher education institutions have been active participants and will also play an important role in the implementation. Ms. Johnson noted that many of the comments expressed were brought up during the discussion of Senate Bill 51. The requirements for the profession are being increased and the need to compensate these new requirements to attract those to the profession should also be reviewed.

Ms. Lindsay explained that in addition to revisions for Regulation 290, the Professional Standards Board will have to rewrite Regulation 1510, Initial License. The Board received the timeline which includes ongoing stakeholder engagement, public comment, and the development of the scorecard development. Senate Bill 51 will go into effect on July 1, 2014. The proposed revisions to Regulation 290 will be published in May Register of Regulations.

There was discussion on performance assessments and requirements for licensure. The performance assessments will be effective in 2015. The discussion on entrance requirements also focused on SAT scores as well as GPAs. The question was raised if all GPAs are equal across the State.

Mr. Melendez thanked the presenters and noted that Mrs. Rutt had to step out of the meeting for about thirty minutes.

College and Career Readiness Initiatives Update

Michael Watson, Chief Academic Officer, and Shana Payne, Director of Higher Education Office, provided an update on the Getting to Zero college readiness campaign for this year. Mr. Watson reminded the Board of the chart that was shared in the Fall that showed that 18% of students that are deemed college ready do not even apply. The Getting to Zero campaign focused on those seniors who scored a 1550 on their SAT last year. These students were contacted and received assistance on filling out applications and FAFSA forms. Ms. Payne stated she had good news to share. Of the students that scored an 1850 on their SAT that also qualify for free and reduced lunch, all of the students have applied to college and of the students that scored a 1550 on their SATs, all but nine have applied to college. Ms. Payne also highlighted the partnerships the Department has formed through its College Access Challenge Grant and the grants that were given to schools and other partners. Schools are currently tracking their students through various ways but it is hoped to have an automated system in place next year. The system would track students and their applications and completion of their FAFSA forms.

Ms. Payne stated that research shows that 90% of students that fill out a FAFSA form enroll in college. The success of College Application Month helped many students in filling out college applications and the next hurdle is the FAFSA form. Counselors are receiving training on how they can assist their students with financial forms as well as with scholarships and other resources that are available.

There was discussion on the capacity of school counselors and the student to counselor ratio. Ms. Payne noted that the grants helped organizations receive funding that would help schools with the one on one assistance they need. Mr. Watson commented that the Department is aware that its counselor to student ratio is very high. Some of the assistance being provided to schools includes Teach for America, which is working with five schools. Other schools are using alumni that attend the University of Delaware that can talk to students about campus and college life.

Mr. Watson stated that the Department has been meeting with the higher education institutions on transition courses for seniors to take in high school that will prevent remediation courses when they get to college.

Ms. Payne informed the State Board of the many celebrations that are being planned for schools to celebrate their students that have applied for college and where they plan to

attend. Students will also receive summer check lists so that can stay on track. She also provided an update on the college investment plan, and on scholarships and the Delaware Goes to College website. It was suggested that public service announcements be filmed by Delaware students to enhance the marketing campaign. Mr. Watson noted that many media outlets have been utilized to promote Delaware Goes to College. Ms. Payne provided areas that will be sustained and enhanced through the Governor's proposed \$1.5 million dollars for college access. It was suggested that the Board receive a follow up on SPaRC and student success plans.

The Board recessed at 2:37 p.m. and returned to session at 2:49 p.m.

Advanced Placement

Michael Watson, Chief Academic Officer and Alison Procopio from College Board presented the State's AP test score data, a comparison to the nation, and additional supports for increasing college readiness in Delaware that are being supported through work with the College Board. The benefits of taking an AP courses are many and include exposure to rigorous curriculum and earn college credit which saves money in college.

College Board is a not for profit membership organization committed to excellence and equity in education. Their mission is to connect students to college success and opportunity. In May of 2013, a total of 6,089 AP exams resulted in scores of 3, 4 or 5 by Delaware public and private high school students. This equals 18,267 college credits and a potential savings of \$6,856,823 for Delaware students and their families. Research shows that students who score a 3 or higher on an AP exam will likely perform better in subsequent college courses and are more likely to graduate college.

College Board shared Delaware's AP data noting that the number of public school students taking AP exams increased by 110% in the last ten years and the percentage of examinees with at least one score of a 3 increased by 101% in the same ten year period. Comparing Delaware to the nation and nearby states shows that Delaware was slightly below the national average of the percentage of high school graduates that scored a 3 or higher on an AP exam in high school. Ms. Procopio noted that Delaware's percentage may be below the national average but showed an increase from the previous year that was higher than the national percentage.

The Board was presented with a listing of AP exams taken most frequently and their score distribution. English Language and Psychology lead the list. She also shared the demographics of AP exam takers in 2013. Also shared was the percentage of students that were deemed "AP potential" that did not participate.

Mr. Watson shared initiatives in the state, many in middle school that will increase AP access and AP success in Delaware. There was discussion on district initiatives to increase AP access and the Board asked for the AP data by district.

Charter Schools

Jennifer Nagourney, Executive Director of the Charter Schools Office presented the charter school items.

Update on Progress of New Charter Applications and Major Modifications

Ms. Nagourney stated that the Charter School Accountability Committee met regarding the new charter school applications and will finalize its review and publish their final reports regarding their recommendation on the applications for new charter schools. Those applicants are: Delaware STEM Academy, Mapleton Charter School at Whitehall, Freire Charter School, Great Oaks- Wilmington, and Pike Creek Charter Middle School. New Moyer Academy is also in the final stages of the Charter School Accountability review process. The Board will receive recommendations for action at its April meeting.

Odyssey Charter has applied for a major modification to change its location and the Charter School Accountability Committee has begun its review of the application. Public hearings are scheduled for April and the Board will take action on the recommendation in May.

The Board was also informed that Gateway filed a major modification that it currently under initial review. Ms. Johnson asked if the major modification would also include their performance agreement. Ms. Nagourney indicated that it would.

Monthly update

Applications for the performance fund awards will be due on April 15th with the awards made on May 15th. Mr. Heffernan asked if there was any update in reference to New Moyer's corrective action plan and Ms. Nagourney responded that there was no update at this time.

Professional Standards Board

Dr. Donna Mitchell, Executive Director of the Professional Standards Board presented the PSB agenda items.

Content Readiness Exams (For Action)

The Professional Standards Board requested that in addition to current content readiness assessments (French, German, Spanish), it was seeking the Board's approval to add to 1565-World Language Teacher Foreign Language – Chinese & Latin:

Chinese Mandarin 5665 Cut Score 164

Latin (Paper only at this point) 0601 Cut Score 152

The Professional Standards Board, acting in cooperation and collaboration with the Department of Education, seeks the consent of the SBE to add Mandarin Chinese and Latin to the current readiness assessments of Regulation 1565 of Title 14 of the Delaware Administrative Code relating to World Language Teachers.

A motion was made by Mrs. Rutt to consent to add Chinese and Latin to the content readiness assessments of Regulation 1565. The motion was seconded by Mr. Hughes and carried with the following voice vote recorded:

Ayes:	Nays:
Mr. Melendez	
Mr. Heffernan	
Mr. Hughes	
Mrs. Rutt	
Dr. Whittaker	

Also requested were new Regenerated Exams – New Cut Scores &/or Exam Questions

Agriscience 5701 Cut Score 147

The Professional Standards Board, acting in cooperation and collaboration with the Department of Education, seeks the consent of the SBE for a regenerated exam for Agriscience using a new cut score. A motion was made by Mr. Heffernan to consent to use a regenerated exam with a new cut score for Agriscience. The motion was seconded by Dr. Whittaker and carried with the following voice vote recorded:

Ayes:	Nays:
Mr. Melendez	
Mr. Heffernan	
Mr. Hughes	
Mrs. Rutt	
Dr. Whittaker	

Application for Leadership Course of Study: University of Delaware Principal/
Assistant Principal Preparation Program

Pursuant to 14 DE Admin Code 1595 Certification Programs for Leaders in Education section 4.1.5, the Professional Standards Board's recommendation for Approval is made to the State Board for their decision to either recommend approval or denial of the program. Pursuant to section 4.1.6, the PSB's and SBE's recommendation will be submitted to the Secretary for the final approval or denial of the certification program.

Prior to making his recommendation recommending the reduction of hours, Secretary Murphy made comments stressing the importance of quality instructional time for students as well as teachers' great need for sufficient preparation time. He balanced these significant needs with the safety challenges faced this winter due to weather while urging better planning in the future to end the need for state "forgiveness" of weather days.

Mr. Murphy said he also must consider the safety challenges caused by this year's weather and with that context would ask the State Board to approve the state offering "forgiveness" for the days when Governor Jack Markell declared a State of Emergency or closed state offices. Those days were: January 3, January 21, January 22, February 13, and March 3 Statewide and February 3 for New Castle County only, and March 17 for Kent and Sussex counties only. These are the days recommended to be forgiven if they were requested. Secretary Murphy also recommended three additional days for Seaford High School, August 26, August 27 and August 28th due to the timing of construction at the beginning of the school year.

Secretary Murphy noted that there needs to be better planning in the future so students and educators do not lose the time they need and deserve. He stated that he expects no requests for forgiveness next year.

There was discussion by the Board members on better planning by districts in the future as well as how snow days were added on to the end of the year in the past. Mrs. Rutt thanked Secretary Murphy for his comments.

The Board asked to vote on the Seaford request separately. There was discussion on why the request was just received since the days were in August. David Blowman, Deputy Secretary of Education joined the discussion and offered his comments on the situation that he is aware of. He stated that Interim Superintendent Carson was just made aware of the situation where teachers were present on those three days but students were not hence additional students hours are needed but not teacher days.

There was final discussion that noted that up to six days could be excused but schools would only be excused for the days requested if those days were either a State of Emergency for their county or state offices were closed. Mr. Melendez stated that the Board would address this with two motions.

Secretary Murphy reread his recommendation. A motion was made by Dr. Whittaker to approve reducing the number of days/hours of school for the 2013-2014 school year as recommended by the Secretary due to weather related circumstances. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Rutt and carried with the following vote recorded:

Ayes:

Nays:

Mr. Melendez
Mr. Heffernan
Mr. Hughes
Mrs. Rutt
Dr. Whittaker

March 20, 2014

A motion was made Dr. Whittaker to also forgive three additional days for Seaford High School from the beginning of the year due to construction. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Rutt and failed with the following vote:

Ayes:

Nays:

Abstention:

Mr. Melendez
Mr. Heffernan
Mr. Hughes
Mrs. Rutt

Dr. Whittaker

Appeals and Reviews

Ilona Kirshon, Deputy Attorney General and legal counsel for the State Board, provided the Board with an update on the appeals listed in the agenda.

M.R. v. Delaware College Preparatory 2013-11

The Board signed an Order of Dismissal for this appeal.

Adjournment

There being no further business, a motion was made by Mr. Hughes to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Dr. Whittaker and carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 5:13 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted;

Mark T. Murphy, Executive Secretary
and Secretary of Education

An audio of the entire meeting is available on the State Board's website at:
<http://www.doe.k12.de.us/infosuites/ddoe/sbe/default.shtml>